



September 17, 2003

Betty Foster, Director, Procurement Svcs.
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
4301 W. Markham
Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

Re: Advisory Opinion #483-03-21

Dear Ms. Foster:

This letter is in response to your request for an advisory opinion in accordance with §19-11-715(b) of the Arkansas Code Annotated of 1987. Your request for an advisory opinion is based on the following facts:

- a) The College of Public Health has requested approval to contract with Michel Leidermann for Spanish translation services.
- b) Mr. Leidermann's wife, Pamela, is the Director of Special Projects for the College of Medicine, and her duties are in no way connected to those of the College of Public Health or in the hiring decision for her husband.
- c) You are requesting an advisory opinion as to whether such a contract violates the Ethics in Public Contracting Law or Governor's Executive Order #98-04.

Since there is no participation in the contracting decision by Ms. Leidermann, nor is there any connection with her current job duties, we see no ethical conflict in the planned contract. Accordingly, you may proceed with the contract with Mr. Leidermann. In the event that the contract exceeds \$25,000 a disclosure must be submitted pursuant to EO 98-04.

This advisory opinion is issued in accordance with Arkansas code Annotated §19-11-715(b) and compliance with the above course of conduct is deemed to constitute compliance with the ethical standards of the Act and EO 98-04.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Weiss
Director

cc: Joe Giddis
Tom Gay, Office of Atty. Gen.